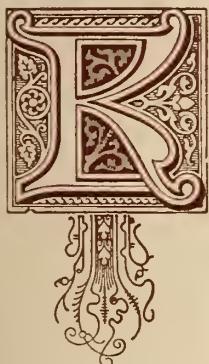


Pam - Med miss.

Gratt. J.A.

*Di Persia,  
with kind regards*

*Wm Park*



# KIRIN, NORTH CHINA.

PIioneer  
MEDICAL MISSION WORK.



FOREIGN MISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

1894.

The following narrative and appeal by our Missionary in Kirin, Dr. J. A. GREIG, is published by the authority of the Standing Committee of the Board of Missions, and is earnestly recommended to the prayerful consideration of all who are interested in philanthropic and missionary work.

As an introduction to Dr. Greig's interesting narrative it may be well to state that, before he was sent out to Manchuria, Kirin had been selected by the Rev. James Carson, our senior missionary in that field, as a suitable centre for work in the central province, and the earlier visits mentioned in Dr. Greig's narrative were made with a view to arrange for its occupation. As it proved impossible to effect this at the time, Mr. Carson and Dr. Greig settled at Kwanchengtzu, a large commercial city eighty miles from Kirin, and Dr. Greig's visits to Kirin in 1891 were made from that centre. It was only in the beginning of 1893 that he was able to settle in Kirin, which has since been his headquarters.

D. G. BARKLEY.

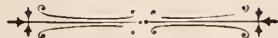
WM. PARK.

*October, 1894.*

# KIRIN,

NORTH CHINA.

## PIONEER MEDICAL MISSION WORK.

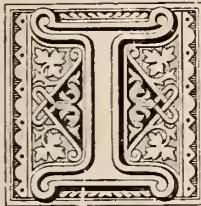


FOREIGN MISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

1894.



DR. GREIG IN CHINESE DRESS



T has been thought desirable to re-publish the following brief story—portions of which have appeared elsewhere—in a connected form. It is with great joy we ask you to join us in thanking our unseen, yet ever present, Lord for His guidance and care and protection, so abundantly vouchsafed to His servants during these FIVE YEARS OF PIONEER MEDICAL MISSION WORK IN KIRIN.

A new era of service is now opening before us, for in the spring of 1895 we purpose building and equipping a permanent Medical Missionary Hospital and Dispensary in this great city. Dear Christian friends, we claim your co-operation in this grand enterprise. I can conceive no nobler calling, no more glorious service to our fellow men, no more Christ-like mission than that which you have ordained and separated us to do. To soothe the fevered brow, to allay the aching pain, to open the blind eyes, to restore the dying to health, is, indeed, Christian philanthropy of the highest form ; and when you add to this the privilege of preaching the Healer of Gennesaret, binding up the broken-hearted, bringing deliverance to Satan's captives, and life and light and joy and hope and heaven to dark and despairing souls, truly, as a great poet has said, ours is "an errand all divine."

We ask you to read these pages, and then prayerfully to consider how you can best become an active partner in this service, which you yourselves initiated and sent us to accomplish.

JAMES A. GREIG.

## FIRST VISIT TO KIRIN, JUNE, 1889.

## THREE WEEKS OF MEDICAL MISSION WORK.

ON the 7th of June Mr. Carson and I started from Moukden on our first medical missionary journey. It is easy to write the words "Started from Moukden," but it is a very different thing to do it, as the modes of travel out here are very different from those at home. At home you can jump on a car or get into the train, and off you go as comfortable as if you were in your own parlour. Here you get into a little square box-like cart, in which you must sit with your legs crossed in tailor fashion, and hold on firmly with both hands to the sides. The roads being so rough that it is quite common for the cart ruts to be six inches, eight inches, or a foot deep, and the cart having no springs of any sort, the jolting is something dreadful. For the first few days it was to me like submitting to a series of small "stuns" or "shocks," the one following the other so quickly that I was kept in a state of chronic soreness. However, we started, and I soon got accustomed to it.



TRAVELLING CART

The day was generally laid out as follows:—Rise at 3-30 or 4 a.m.; coffee and biscuits; travel till 10 or 11; dinner; travel till 6 or 7 p.m.; supper, and bed about 9 p.m. In this manner day after day passed by, our road taking a north-easterly direction through a most lovely country, which increased in beauty as we approached Kirin. The pass of Lao Yie Ling, about seven miles south of Kirin, is entrancing. The ascent of the hill is pretty steep, but on reaching the brow the scene that unfolds itself is magnificent. The road winds between high mountains

thickly wooded to the summit. Here and there a little brook ripples over its pebbly bed, and everywhere numerous wild flowers in full bloom refresh the eyes of the weary traveller. One had almost forgotten he was in China were it not for the Buddhist Temple standing on one of the hills, from which ever and anon pealed forth the clear deep tones of a gong, intimating that the priests were at their intercessory prayers, praying for the safety of travellers.

On arriving at Kirin we were delighted with its situation. The town extends for about two miles along the western bank of the stately river Sungari, a branch of the Amour. The plain through which the river winds is very fertile, and clad at this season of the year in beautiful green. On all sides of the plain mountains, varying from 500 to 3,000 feet high, seem to vie with each other in keeping guard over the capital of central Manchuria. Unfortunately, on entering the city itself the charm is rudely broken, for the streets are very filthy, and the smells arising from decaying refuse of all kinds are most objectionable. The Government returns lately stated the population to be 100,000, and as we passed through the gateways how my heart longed that by God's strength we might proclaim this great city as taken possession of for King Jesus, and that soon He might be here crowned by many Lord of all. At present we do not know of one of the teeming thousands who is called by the ever holy name of Christian. The evening we arrived we had great difficulty in getting an inn, so we judged that there must be some considerable opposition on the part probably of the official classes. After about three hours' searching, however, we secured a room—smoky, dirty, draughty to be sure, but we were right glad to get any resting-place where to lay our weary heads. The evangelist who had been sent to Kirin two months before us to try and rent a house came and reported to us his utter failure to do so, and that during his negotiations a man had been imprisoned for rendering him assistance.

These things being so, clearly our first duty was to allay the suspicions of the people by quiet deeds of kindness whilst living for a time in their midst. Accordingly we settled down in our dirty little room, opened the medicine chest, and in a quiet way intimated to the innkeeper that if any of her friends were sick we would attend them and give them medicine. We thought it better not to make any public announcement. The day after we arrived, when sitting in our room waiting for our way to open up, we were startled by dreadful screams coming from the other side of the yard of the inn. We made inquiries, and found that a native doctor and sorcerer was treating the daughter-in-law of the innkeeper for being "possessed of a devil," and that he had succeeded in getting the evil spirit up into her arms and would soon get it out.

We refrained from interfering for a short time, but as the screaming continued and betokened great suffering, we then went across to see if we could not render some assistance. The sight which met our gaze was ghastly. In a small room, crowded with men and women, the sorcerer was carrying on his diabolical work. His patient—a poor woman of 30 years of age—was held down by a number of strong men upon the kang, or bed, and was simply writhing in agony. Two large needles were sticking through

her upper lip, and others were being forced up under her finger-nails. Some of the largest veins in the forearm had just been opened, and the dark venous blood was pouring out. The ignorant and superstitious people, pointing to the blood, cried, "Look at its colour ; it is well to let it out." The colour was really that of healthy venous blood. It was in vain that we protested against this inhuman cruelty. Warnings and pleadings were alike fruitless, and the exorcist proceeded, looking a little angry, however, at our expostulations. Incense sticks were shortly produced and burned before him, whilst he muttered some prayers, and went through a series of fanatical gesticulations, such as gulping down the devil and slapping himself on his forehead, &c. After he left, the story we got from the mother-in-law of the patient seemed to indicate that the subject of these tortures was suffering from some infectious fever, and had for some nights been delirious. This the poor people thought was "possession by a devil." Next morning, to our horror, we learned that the woman had died during the night. About ten o'clock in the forenoon she was buried. We got a glimpse of the proceedings from our window. First of all the corpse was carried out on a litter covered with blankets, followed by a man dressed in white clothes (the mourning colour), scattering ashes over the path. Then came a paper effigy of the woman—life size—and a paper horse, to be burned at the grave, it being supposed that these attend to the disembodied spirit in the other world. During all this time a deafening noise, caused by the bursting of powder crackers and blowing of horns, somewhat like the bagpipes, was kept up. Lastly, a herd of swine were fiercely driven to and fro in the courtyard, there being some superstition connected with the proceeding which we could not ascertain, but which brought to our recollection the "herd of swine" possessed by devils mentioned in Scripture. Oh, dear fellow-Christians, I had often read missionary stories before leaving home telling of the cruelties of heathendom, but how different it is when one is brought face to face with such dreadful deeds and is powerless to stop them ! Our only hope is in God and in your prayers on our behalf. Do pray much for the overthrow of Satan's strongholds of sorcery, witchcraft, and idolatry, and the setting up of the banner of Jehovah. Kirin is a city wholly given to idolatry, and no might nor power of ours can change it. No ! but, blessed be God, we have His word that, although not by might and not by power, yet by His Spirit, the standard shall be lifted up against the enemy.

From the first moment we entered Kirin we have been constantly watched by Government officials, and felt that we required to walk very circumspectly lest we should give any offence. On going about the streets the words "foreign devils" were ever on the people's lips, but no violence was offered, and we considered it a very little thing to be called upon to suffer for the sake of Christ. Curses from such people felt to me like "blessings" from the Master Himself, such a sweet sense of serving the King did it bring into the soul.

By waiting quietly for a day or two, and doing what work offered itself, the people gradually began to place more confidence in us. One of my first patients was a poor little boy whose eyes had been very

sore for some months, and who had spent about 3s.—a large sum for him—on native doctors, and had derived no benefit. By God's blessing, he was quite healed in a day or two, and that, to his amazement, "free of charge." How grateful the little fellow was, and, as the result, he brought me several "eye" patients. Thus the work began to grow. We did everything in public. I mean our little room was always filled with a number of spectators. This was the delight of the Chinaman's heart, and soon we became good friends all round. Little operations made great impression on their ignorant minds. The first man whose tooth I pulled said I must have taken it out by some spiritual power, as he never felt it go, and "there," said he, "is the very tooth in my hand." Pain, however, to them must be a very relative term. Mr. Carson soon got many opportunities of telling the people about the object of our visit, and speaking to them of Jesus. As I, of course, cannot speak the language, Mr. Carson very kindly undertook the humble work of interpreter in all my medical cases.

During our visit we treated about 400 sick people of all classes and ranks, some being poor coolies off the street, who could not afford to buy a bottle for the medicine, and others mandarins dressed in silks and satins. Before we left we seldom heard the words "foreign devil" called after us, but were treated very respectfully, and often heard the words, "There goes the doctor," and "I wonder if the doctor would look at my eyes just now," and so on. But though we visited the Prefect and received fair promises of help from him, we failed to secure premises for our mission.

The scenes were sometimes very touching, as the blind were led in to us, the fever-stricken carried and laid before us; as many with loathsome diseases prostrated themselves at our feet and implored us to heal them. Christ-like work! Who does not envy us? Who will join in the triumph of the Gospel of healing to body and soul? Pray, then, for us, and yours will be a large share of the honour, for "more is wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

After a favourable return journey, Mr. Carson and I reached Moukden again on the 8th of July, having been absent about six weeks.

### SECOND VISIT, DECEMBER, 1889.

### KIRIN: SUMMER AND WINTER.

HOW greatly changed is the scene since our last visit! The mountains are now all covered with a mantle of snow, the great river is frozen from bank to bank, and the city itself is seen to advantage. The streets are now comparatively clean, the dry crisp snow being trodden down hard. The pearly whiteness of the snow on the roofs of the houses, and the rows of icicles hanging from the eaves, glittering in the noon-day sun, give a very picturesque appearance. But as our thoughts passed from the outward beauty to the inward corruption, there seemed to be a weight laid upon us. We opened our

medicine chest and quietly treated all who came to us. The cold weather has made a great difference in the amount of sickness in the city, and the cess-pools and drains being all frozen the diseases resulting from mal-hygiene are now almost unknown. We learned that just after we left in the summer-time there was a dreadful outbreak of cholera ; one informer stating that he believed between *twenty and thirty corpses were carried out of the west gate daily* for burial during several weeks. At present the chief complaints are



STREET IN KIRIN

bronchitis, rheumatism, &c., resulting from the wintry weather. Many of those who came to us heard the glad tidings of the Gospel for the first time. How very simple we must be in speaking to them ! *The youngest scholar in our Sabbath Schools could teach them.* May the Lord grant us grace to break down the Bread of Life for those hungry souls !

On this visit we were again frustrated in our attempt to rent premises and open a permanent Medical Mission.

## THIRD VISIT.

IN January, 1891, I visited Kirin for the third time, and met with no very violent opposition. I felt, however, that there was a strong under-current of suspicion and hatred emanating, I believed, from high quarters. The chief feature of this visit was the request from Mr. Yi, a very rich merchant, that I should operate on his eyes for cataract. I undertook the case, and he came to Kwanchengtzu two months later and received his sight. His return to Kirin, after the successful operation, spread our fame far and wide, and prepared the way for our next visit in the summer of the same year.

## FOURTH VISIT.

## A FORTNIGHT IN KIRIN.

## OVER A THOUSAND CONSULTATIONS.

KIRIN, 18th June, 1891.—Here we are, my assistants and I, sitting cross-legged on our respective “kangs” in a dirty little inn just inside the water gate of the city. Though our arrival has been made known to the public by a number of placards, the weather is too wet for any patients to venture out.

20th.—One of our first patients to-day was a mandarin staying in the same inn with ourselves—an opium smoker of many years’ standing. Accursed drug! Would that you could see him as he turns over and over on his rug in the agonies of despair! I have just told him there is little hope of any permanent improvement while he continues to smoke the obnoxious weed. Self-restraint is gone. He is crying like a child, and it is little wonder. See his pale, sallow face and sunken eyes. His blue gums and loose blackened teeth, his haggard, emaciated frame, and anxious, care-worn look, mark him an easy prey to the first attack of fever or disease.

25th.—Fine weather at last. Such a crowd of sick folk—halt, lame, blind—we cannot get time to do justice to each. One grateful patient came to-day bringing me a present of a fowl, a fish, and a fan. Out of every ten patients, five make allusion to Mr. Yi’s restored eyesight, showing what a profound impression

has been caused. Some poor hopelessly blind people will take no refusal, having unlimited faith in our powers, and have sometimes even to be removed from the consulting-room by force to make room for others.

26th to 28th.—More work than we can undertake. Several turned away daily. My first assistant is down with a slight fever, but this has not inconvenienced us much, as three gentlemen living in the inn volunteered at once as helpers. Without them I don't know how we could have got along. One kept the door, another gave out the tickets, and a third entered the patients' names in the register, thus leaving my second assistant free to dispense the medicines. They would not hear of thanks, saying, "Don't mention it, Doctor ; you are saving our countrymen's lives." These willing hands made light work.

29th.—The tide of public feeling seems running so much in our favour now that I have arranged to visit Kirin once every month, and treat cases on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of each Chinese moon, Mr. Yi guaranteeing to secure me premises for this purpose. This is a great step in advance. Praise God !

1st July.—Our stock of medicines and energy is quite exhausted, so we are preparing to return to Kwanchengtu. I have never had such a run of patients anywhere as this. We have treated 911 cases, registered only on first visit. Second visit amounts to 196, making in all the grand total of 1,107 consultations in a fortnight, and of them more than two-thirds were seen during the last week.

4th July.—After a very hot journey I arrived at Kwanchengtu last night, as brown as a berry from the scorching sun, but as joyous as a lark for all God hath wrought.

"The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

## FIFTH VISIT TO KIRIN.

This visit in August, 1891, was a memorable one. My colleague, Mr. Carson, has recorded the details of that eventful time.

**I**T is my painful duty to send you particulars of a brutal outrage that was committed on my colleague, Dr. Greig, at a place called Ta Shui Ho, near Kirin, on the night of the 7th instant. On the date mentioned the doctor was returning from one of his usual monthly visits to the city, having at last succeeded in obtaining dispensary premises in Kirin. One of his assistants and the cook were with him. The party left the city about two o'clock in the afternoon, the doctor on horseback, the other two in a small cart. As the former was mounted, he soon out-distanced his companions, and when eight *li* outside the suburbs, overtook six lads (truants), one of whom accosted the doctor by name, enquiring if he was return-

ing to Kwanchengtu, and where he had put up during his stay in the city. Their enquiries satisfied, he passed on. By-and-by the small cart also overtook them, when they asked, "Is this Dr. Greig's cart? Are you going to Kwan?" "Yes." "Then we shall follow your cart, as we are going there too." The suspicious old carter, not relishing this reply, informed the scholars that he was going to Moukden, and not to the first-mentioned place. They parted company after crossing the well-known pass of Lao Ye Ling, thus travelling together for only about ten *li*.

This little incident has an important bearing on the outrage, as the sequel will show. The doctor arrived about two hours in advance of his party at the village above-mentioned, and all were comfortably installed for the night. After supper they retired to rest. Shortly after midnight the doctor was rudely awakened by the firm grip of a strong hand on his throat. Recovering consciousness, he found himself surrounded by three or four soldiers, while a number of others were about the door of the little apartment occupied by him. They began a violent assault by beating him with the back of their sword blades and other weapons; but finding themselves much hampered by the narrowness of the chamber, they lifted him bodily, and with one sweep landed him on the floor of the large outer room. While thus prostrate and utterly incapable of offering the slightest resistance, they turned him over, twisted his hands behind his back, bound him with a rope, plying him all the while with curses and the most abusive language. The first scene ended by one of the ruffians firmly planting his foot on the doctor's neck as he lay prone, his cheek resting on the earthen floor. At this point of time Dr. Greig was asked, "Where is my child?" To which he could only reply that he knew nothing of a child. Hereupon they became still more furious, redoubling the strokes of blade and bludgeon. Thinking all the while that his ruthless assailants were mounted robbers in the disguise of soldiers, and that their sole object in attacking was the quest of booty, the doctor made an attempt to buy them off by an offer of silver, on condition that they should release him on the spot. The only answer vouchsafed was, "We don't want your money, but your life." With the ruffian's foot still on his neck, he was ordered by them to stand up. This was, of course, an impossibility, as he was now bound both hand and foot, and so tightly that the circulation in his limbs was stopped, suffering great pain in consequence. However, his tormentors dragged him to the side of the *kang*, and hoisting him up, lashed him firmly to a post. Thus suspended by his arms, and in a contorted position, he suffered an agony of torture, and longed, indeed, for a stroke to despatch him. He swooned away, but animation was restored by dashing cold water in his face. Then was the object of this fiendish behaviour lowered down so as to be able to rest on the ground, though still so faint and weak as to be only half conscious of what was passing. Repeatedly did he beg for water and that his bonds might be loosed. All entreaties were in vain. Simultaneously with all this, others of the band (23 in all) were belabouring the dispenser and cook hard by.

At the approach of dawn the doctor was permitted to lie down, but by this time he was so utterly prostrate that he had to be lifted on the *kang*, when immediately a severe rigour set in accompanied with

profuse perspiration all over the body. He now fainted for the second time. Be it remembered that he was in sleeping attire (pyjamas) only, while the chilly night air played upon his exposed person through the open windows. A trifle alarmed lest their victim might pass away among their hands, these implacable fiends now permitted a little hot water to be brought and sipped, and the assistant to fetch a little brandy. About six o'clock on Saturday morning the doctor was completely unbound, and at the same time he was informed that the missing children had been found.

It was subsequently discovered that the ring-leaders in this dastardly assault were personal troops, or the bodyguard of the Tartar General. The attack lasted altogether about four hours, during which time the torture inflicted, both mental and physical, was as exquisite as prolonged. By the good hand of God, and in answer to prayer, his life was spared. An attempt was now made by Dr. Greig to communicate with home and friends by means of a hastily scribbled note. This was intercepted by the soldiers, and the missive torn to shreds. Later on in the day a second attempt was more successful. Naturally, with returning strength he wished to continue his homeward journey, but was informed by two soldiers left in charge that he must return to Kirin. Accordingly, about five o'clock in the evening, he started for the capital, arriving there about midnight. Although the hour was so late there were many awaiting the arrival of the "kidnapper." Numerous lanterns were thrust into the cart to have a peep at him. This is easily explained by the fact that the ringleaders had preceded the doctor in their return to the city, and had industriously circulated the calumnious and dangerous report. He was not allowed to go back to his own quarters, where he would have had the peace and quietness so sorely needed, but by order of the Tartar General was driven to an inn, where he was a prisoner for the three days following. Here insult was added to injury, and he was the butt of a ribald mob, who came day after day to look upon him as they would a wild beast, smack at each other, and pass insulting remarks upon his person. At this time it was uncertain what the fate of these three men might be, for they were all under arrest; but providentially the doctor was now within telegraphic reach of the British Consul. Nor was he slow to avail himself of the privilege, and claim the protection to which, as a British subject, he was entitled. On the receipt of telegrams from the Port in Peking the aspect of affairs began to change, and for the better. The feeling began to prevail in official circles that a gross blunder had been committed, and the Yamen runners and other officials became immediately as obsequious as recently they were insolent and overbearing. The Tartar General might have made it comparatively easy and pleasant for my colleague by at once ordering the arrest of his assailants, and causing an investigation to be made into the whole affair. But the only notice he took of Dr. Greig's application for redress and protection was to incarcerate the offended party. What a barbarian we have to deal with!

A proclamation of an excellent character issued from the Throne on the seventh day of the fifth moon. It is altogether in favour of Christianity, and calling for the immediate suppression of all such rumours as injuriously affect the character of missionaries and their work. This Imperial edict was in due time received

in Kirin, and in all the provincial capitals, where it was ordered to be posted up; but, would you believe it? the Tartar General actually suppressed it. Of what avail, then, are such high-flown proclamations and the beneficent intentions of the Central Government if such a high functionary as this can act in defiance of his Suzerain—like a Mwanga or a Mtesa in the heart of the Dark Continent? One bright feature in this unhappy affair, which I have great pleasure in noting, was the number of Chinese friends who came forward to testify their sympathy and unshaken confidence in Dr. Greig in the hour of his need. Conspicuous among all others was Mr. Yi, the friend of old standing. Mrs. Fuh, the wife of a mandarin, also deserves special mention. She came in person to the inn. Quite touching was it to see the presents, fruit, food, &c., which he received from those who had been former patients, so that his two years' labour have not been in vain.

We hope and pray, now that this matter has been put into the hands of the authorities, that it may soon and satisfactorily be adjusted in such a way as to secure immunity from a repetition of the offence; but, above all, that a wide and effectual door may be opened for the Gospel, and that we may be brought into closer touch and sympathy with these benighted people, whose welfare for time and eternity is the only object of our life amongst them.

In my absence from China, to recruit after my accident, my brother-in-law, Dr. Young, paid several visits to Kirin, and very generously carried on the work there. He sent home the following account of one of his visits:—

### MEDICAL MISSION WORK AT KIRIN.

THE dispensary rented by Dr. Greig we find occupied with bricks and stones, the entrance blocked, and the landlord preparing to rebuild, having handed the property, for excuse, to a neighbouring money “hong,” and with nothing left but fair promises for our future, although we hold a lease. But now we are in and prepared to stay, and they are dismayed to find that all their wiles fail to draw anything but a smile from us, and an assurance that everything is quite to our taste, and that we hope to remain some time. I found the wave of excitement which surged throughout China last year had subsided, but lives in the heart of the people, and the latent spark will, on the merest pretext, break out into a flame of active antagonism. Nowhere in Manchuria have I felt the same atmosphere and met the like difficulties and prejudices. The first few days are uneventful—an occasional patient, a spy from the landlord with promises, leaves time to hang heavy on our hands; but fish are caught by waiting, and gradually the way opens. A mandarin has a corneal ulcer, and is driven at last by pain and fear of losing his sight to

surmount the heap of *débris* laid down at our door for the new building, and as he is greatly better, is encouraged to come back again. Another of the highest rank sends to ask us to visit him, and I undertake the case, provided that we get a suitable place and all security. The blind and maimed begin to gravitate towards us, and from day to day everything seems prepared to our hand; cases which to their ignorance seem hopeless, give way before a few dressings. I will not detail how we sought through weeks of plodding to carve our way through ulcers, abscesses, and sores to the hearts of the people; patiently to glide through the diseases of the few into the favour of the many; to creep over the backs of the poor until at last we reach the very household of the Governor-General himself, and with the full consent and knowledge of the officials we openly rent and occupy larger and more suitable premises near the Yamen in the centre of the town. Let me, however, give you a glimpse of our difficulties and encouragements.

We have made a friend of the chief priest in a temple, and he has been visiting us and has carried off a few books and a New Testament. One day he comes as deputy from a man named "Ming," with a request for medicines, which is politely refused, as we have not seen the patient. A few days pass, and he is driven as a last resort to ask us to visit him. He is a mandarin in the charge of a large camp of soldiers, hence, perhaps, his unwillingness to have anything to do with the foreigner; is suffering from an ulcer due to an irritated "corn" on the toe; we find him sitting in great pain on the edge of the kang, with his leg hanging down over the edge so as to nourish the disease by letting the blood get at it; the foot and leg are swollen, and the wound angry and exquisitely tender; round the thigh is bound loosely a red cord on a horse hair, a charm to keep the poison from going up towards the heart; a grain of cocaine relieves the pain and gives him courage; simple water dressing gives him the first night's rest for nearly a month; next day the inflammation is down, and a simple operation removes the disease, and after a few days he is well, and very grateful, as he thinks that I have saved his life. He sends wine, silk, tea, &c., as a present, and, more important, many other patients come through him; and *now* he writes asking me to come and cure him of opium smoking.

Again, we are called out to see an old lady. The house is well-to-do, and as we enter, after drinking tea and refusing to smoke, we are led into the presence of the patient—screened, however, by curtains. "What is the matter with you?" In answer, a long, thin arm is thrust from below the curtains, as much as to say "That's *your* business! If you can't find out from my pulse what's wrong with me, how can you cure me?" Now, suppose it is "housemaid's knee," what am I to do? "To catch the bird we must not fling our bonnet at her," as Sir Walter Scott says; and so the fight between shyness, craft, and ignorance pitted against nature's truth and sagacity goes on. Our plan is patience; our hope is that, being a woman, she can't long remain quiet! Nor are we disappointed. In a few minutes she gives us the clue which, followed cautiously, brings light to the hidden malady. Worm medicine and castor oil,

followed by stomach powders, work wonders, and then we find—not altogether to our surprise—that the old lady has been but a feeler before introducing a more important patient. And so on we glide.

We have had the advantage of building upon a broad foundation laid in years of patient, anxious toil, and on all hands were encouraged for the future by seeing tokens of gratitude for benefits received.

### SETTLING IN KIRIN, JANUARY, 1893.

Within three months after my return to China, in the autumn of 1892, God was graciously pleased to open the door of Kirin, so long closed against the residence of missionaries, and in January, 1893, Mrs. Greig and I removed from Kwanchengtzu and took up our headquarters there.

HERE was much discomfort at first. After being six weeks in Kirin our house was only getting into order. The weather was intensely cold—one morning the self-registering thermometer indicating 36° F. below zero, and only one room had a stove in it. However, it was well we acted so promptly in coming over to Kirin without delay after securing premises; for no sooner did it become known that our landlord had rented to the hated foreigner, than constant relays of petty officials began to pester him and try to extort exorbitant bribes by all kinds of threats. Fortunately we had arrived before this, and we challenged them to do their worst, and encouraged our landlord's trembling heart by friendly counsel and support. This little game has played itself out, but might very easily have kept us out had we not forestalled our adversaries.

Meantime I am being called out a good deal to private patients in different parts of the city, and am securing a friend here and a friend there.

For the last fortnight we have had a mandarin of the highest rank staying with us, the gentleman mentioned in a previous letter, who was under Dr. Young's treatment last winter. At his urgent request I operated on one of his eyes, but have not succeeded in improving his eyesight. His staying with us will, however, do our cause good, as he is a well-known military official. He was for some years Imperial Commissioner at Yi li, on the borders of Eastern Turkestan, and is an intimate friend of the Governor-General of Kirin. It gives the common people confidence when such a man boldly braves public opinion and the risk of being thought unpatriotic, and becomes our guest for a time.

The other day the use of the stomach pump in a case of opium poisoning created a great impression and saved a fine young life.

## AMONG OFFICIALS IN KIRIN.

AUGUST, 1893.

ONE Monday in this month, according to previous invitation, Dr. Young, my brother-in-law, and I had dinner with some of the highest mandarins in this city and province. It was, indeed, a great surprise to receive such an invitation, and it is somewhat difficult to explain. The invitation was accompanied by a request to exhibit our magic lantern.

The entertainment was held in a large guild-hall on the river bank. When we arrived, about five o'clock, we found most of the guests already assembled, and were received on the verandah by the seven croupiers of the feast. They introduced us at once to the chief guests. At the head of the room sat the Tao Tai, the highest civil magistrate of the city, gorgeously dressed in embroidered silk robes, and on his right was the eldest son of the Tartar General, also beautifully attired, and in other parts of the room the *élite* of Manchu and Chinese gentlemen were chatting merrily.

The introductions over, tea was set before us—not, however, brewed in a teapot, but a few leaves placed in the cup and boiling water poured over them, and covered with a lid. In a few minutes the tea is ready for use, and there is no fear of indigestion, as the tannin is not extracted. After a little conversation the feast began.

There were three round tables, each set for eight guests. The chief magistrates, as was their due, occupied the seats of honour, but next in rank Dr. Young and I were placed, this being more respect than we were entitled to, holding, as we do, no official position.

I need not linger over the entertainment. After the third or fourth course had been served much of the formality passed off, guests changing places and tables quite freely, joking and enjoying themselves to the utmost. We used this opportunity to give these gentlemen a little instruction in a quiet way. We produced a microscope, and showed them a drop of blood, a fly's wing, and some other curiosities, to their great delight. Others had their minds enlarged by a short geography lesson from my atlas, and by perusing a photo-album. The Prefect, or chief magistrate, of Kwanchengtzu seemed specially interested in these demonstrations, and asked many very intelligent questions, which led naturally to our explaining to him, in the hearing of others, our great mission in coming to China, a subject very little understood and so much misrepresented.

Tea and tobacco brought the dinner to an end about eight o'clock, and just then the Lieutenant-Governor was announced. He had been prevented coming earlier, but did not wish to miss the magic

lantern. All rose and went to the door to meet him, saluting him in the customary official manner by bending the right knee.

He was most affable to us, having been cured of dropsy by me recently. His sickness was the more important, as he is at present acting for the Tartar General, who is away in the north of the province reviewing troops.

As soon as it was quite dark we all adjourned to the courtyard and gave our magic lantern exhibition. A number of officials and others who had not been invited to the feast now joined the party, and nearly all the mandarins' children, so that, including attendants, there must have been over a hundred present.

The views, as my own had not arrived, were very kindly lent and explained by Dr. Young. I hope he will reap the benefit of thus becoming acquainted with the Government representatives here when he returns to his lonely outpost in Shuang-cheng-pu. Whenever Dr. Young's explanations appeared inadequate, the Lieutenant-Governor voluntarily offered such additions as he considered necessary. These extra remarks were often highly amusing, as he ventured fearlessly quite beyond his depth, and consequently had to draw considerably upon his imagination; and as this was done with great ostentation and pretension, it was extremely difficult to obviate or correct. But, withal, these high dignitaries evinced a marked degree of teachableness and desire for knowledge.

Doubtless many of our statements were received *cum grano salis*, for it is hardly conceivable that those who have never been outside of China, and whose whole training has been ultra-conservative, should believe all of our statements about our western wonderland. Yet we tried so to intersperse Chinese among foreign scenes that all might appear both real and accurate. Perhaps the picture that took best was one of a laughing negro, probably few present having seen a black man.

All expressed themselves much pleased, and we left feeling that another step had been made towards establishing our mission on a firm and friendly basis in Kirin. Strange that this should be on the second anniversary of my sufferings at Ta Shui Ho!

"God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform."

"No purpose of Thine can be restrained."—*Job* xlii. 2 (R.V.).

"All heathen lands and kingly thrones  
On earth Thy glorious name shall fear."

## A T W O R K I N K I R I N.

CLOSE OF 1893.

THE routine of each day is as follows:—Mondays and Thursdays the dispensary in the city is open for male patients. I limit the number to *fifty* per day, so that I may do justice as far as possible to each one's needs. Before seeing and prescribing for these sick folk, I preach to them in the waiting-room. This is delightful work, and sometimes, as I realise by God's Spirit the greatness of my calling and the fulness of the message of love, I surprise my audience by pausing a moment, overcome by my feelings.

Do not think for a moment that by this I mean that they believe even superficially my declaration. I do not think one per cent. does, but I am quite convinced that the old, old story is simply entrancing, when told simply, and resting on the Holy Spirit to quicken the words. As they have never heard the message before, it is usually all I can do in one address to fix *one thought*, or rather I should say *one truth*, in their minds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays the dispensary is open for female patients. The number is small—only ten or twenty per day—so after these are seen and prescribed for, I spend an hour or two hours in teaching my assistants medicine, dispensing, &c.

I seldom preach to the women, for reasons too numerous to explain. We must have *lady workers* soon, and many, for this work.

On Tuesdays and Fridays, however, I have hospital ward services, instructing the patients, collectively and individually, in the Gospel, and using the question and answer method freely. Wednesdays and Saturdays are operation days, and these often take more of my strength than all the other days of the week put together, so



PATIENTS AT DR. GREIG'S DISPENSARY



great is the strain of a serious operation and chloroform administration without trained assistance. Yet God is most graciously strengthening nerve and giving wisdom. Don't forget to seek "skill and understanding" for me.

Sabbath Day I have Divine service for Christians and inquirers. There are only two baptized Christians now, one having died recently, and my two assistants, making four in all. But there is usually an attendance of about twenty or so, and I am glad to say several are attending very regularly, and have put down their names as desirous to enter the Church. There are what I consider unmistakable signs of grace in one or two of these, but we are in no hurry to baptize: probation is good for all, and does no harm.

Daily, of course, I have to attend to the wants, dressings, medicines, &c., of my hospital patients, who at present number *fifteen*, the cases comprising fractures of limbs, ulcerating wounds, gunshot injury from highway brigands, eye diseases, &c.

I have also to spend two or even more hours a day studying this intricate language, and preparing for my public work, both medical and spiritual.

But over and above these duties—aye, deeper and before all these—is communion with our unseen and ever-present Lord and Leader, and I am finding it more and more necessary for my own spiritual life, and for the "life" of all our organisation, to wait in His presence and to study His will. . . . .

Our work is intensely interesting; it is as if there were no routine in it. I have just come in from seeing a young man of twenty, who was seized about ten days ago with an acute surgical disease. The native doctors called in have aggravated instead of relieved, till he is now in great agony and danger. From experience of similar cases, however, I have no doubt if he is brought to the hospital we will be able to relieve his pain almost at once, and almost certainly save his life. What joy is there

like this! How his father's eyes sparkled as I held out a good hope of speedy recovery. The patient himself, quite unable to turn in bed, by a great effort raised himself on his hands to bow his inexpressible gratitude.

Another young man not long ago I stumbled over on the street, crawling on all-fours like a beast of burden. But his feet were frost-bitten a year ago, and since he had been compelled to beg on his hands and knees. Like Peter and John of old, we had neither silver nor gold to give him, but such as we had we gave, and his feet and ankle bones received strength, and he was able both to leap and walk once again. True, the cure was not wrought by miraculous, but by natural means; but then the end attained was the same. Is it not a glorious mission ours? Healing and heralding, loving and lightening!

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## A HOSPITAL NEEDED.

NOTE BY THE CONVENERS.

DR. GREIG'S simple story of pioneer work in Kirin, the seat of government of Central Manchuria, speaks for itself. After efforts continued for years he seems now to have got securely settled in its midst, and the Chinese Government, in addition to the sum paid him personally as compensation for the brutal assault upon him, the story of which is told again in these pages, has paid over a sum of money to buy a site for a Mission Hospital in Kirin. A suitable site has been obtained; and now Doctor Greig pleads earnestly with us to permit him to build next spring. Work is pouring in upon him. In his last letter, of 28th June, he tells us he has had seven major operations under chloroform in the last ten days, and during the last four days he had been able to save from imminent death no fewer than five lives. But he is sadly hampered for want of suitable buildings.

He estimates that, at the present rate of exchange, the cost of the necessary buildings will be a little over £1,500, including a sum of £150 which has to be paid for the site, over and above the \$900 granted for the purpose by the Chinese Government. £400 of this he asks to be sent out at once, and the remainder as soon as possible. It is impossible, out of the ordinary funds of the Foreign Mission, to pay for these buildings ; and yet there is no doubt they should be erected at once, if we are to hold Kirin for Christ, and do His work amid its teeming population. It therefore becomes necessary to seek for special donations for this object.

Dr. Greig suggests, for the consideration of friends who would like to bear the cost of a particular portion of the work, that a few might join to build the Dispensary, which will cost £500 ; or one or more might undertake to pay for one of the wards of the Hospital, which will consist of three larger wards, costing £200 each, and four smaller wards, costing £50 each. There are also the boundary wall, furniture, and fittings to be paid for, and the balance of the cost of the site to be met. Out of the donation of £1,000 recently promised for mission buildings, half of which has already been paid, the donor has allowed £250 to be set apart for this object. One of the smaller wards has already been undertaken. Mr. Osborne, of the Chinese Customs Service in Korea, has also sent Dr. Greig \$100 towards the building fund. But we cannot expect to receive more than a portion of the amount required in large sums. All donations, large or small, will be gratefully received by either of the Conveners, D. G. BARKLEY, LL.D., 12, May Street, and Rev. Wm. PARK, Fortwilliam Park, Belfast ; or by Mr. W. D. EAKIN, 12, May Street, Belfast ; and perhaps some friends may be able to help by collecting from others.







